

4. Background and Recognition of the Petrocup World Student Olympics (PWSO)

This section presents an overview of the Petrocup World Student Olympics (PWSO), outlining its origins, leadership, organizational structure, and impact. It will cover the year of establishment, introduce the key figures behind the Organizing Committee, Methodological Commission, and Jury, and highlight the role of Founder and permanent Chairman Dr. Arthur Aslanyan, Principal of Nafta College. It will also showcase visuals from past events and award ceremonies, describe ongoing initiatives for nurturing talented students, and summarize the achievements of winners and finalists. Finally, it will detail the regional venues that hosted the qualifying and final stages in the 2023/24 academic year and specify the highest level of recognition the Olympics is pursuing based on expert evaluation.

The Petrocup World Student Olympics (PWSO) focuses on Oil and Gas Field Development Management and Planning, and is delivered through the PetroCup interactive training simulator, is a social-educational industry initiative led by Nafta College LLC (Russia). The project supports the national program to train highly qualified specialists for the oil and gas sector and advances academic standards to address the evolving challenges of Russia's oil and gas industry.

The Olympics organizer - Nafta College LLC (educational license №L035-01272-16/00565765 issued 06/28/2022 by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tatarstan): <https://nafta.college/ru/projects/>

Dr. Arthur Aslanyan is the Founder and permanent Chairman of the Organizing Committee and the Olympics Jury, and Principal of Nafta College.

Annually, the Olympics partners include major oil and gas companies such as Gazprom Neft Group, Tatneft, Lukoil, Rosneft, Zarubezhneft and others, which maintain flagship partner universities and implement large-scale educational projects supporting specialized oil and gas higher education. The support from oil and gas producers stems from their interest in implementing innovative machine learning tools like the PetroCup interactive simulator (<https://nafta.college/ru/petrocup/>) into their partner universities' curricula. The simulator is officially registered under Russian law, included in the Russian Ministry of Digital Development's domestic software registry, and holds an official trademark.

The main attribute and Symbol of the Olympics is the Cup named after Soviet and Russian physicist, Professor Nikolay Neprimov who was Doctor of Technical Sciences at Kazan State University. This traveling trophy is awarded to the winner of the international finals held annually.

2018

The inaugural PetroCup Olympics took place in 2018 with 9 teams from 8 Russian cities forming the Northern Eurasia League. 90 participants competed at Almet'yevsk state technological university "Petroleum high school", Republic of Tatarstan in an on-site format. The first Olympics champion was the student team from Almet'yevsk State Oil Institute (Almet'yevsk, Republic of Tatarstan).

The 2018 Olympics prize-winners were teams from Saint Petersburg Mining University and Samara State Technical University.

2019

In October 2019, the Olympics was again held exclusively for the Northern Eurasia League, featuring 11 student teams from Russian universities with 115 petroleum engineering students participating

The first-place winner was the student team from Almeteyevsk state technological university "Petroleum high school", Almeteyevsk, Republic of Tatarstan.

The 2019 Olympics prize-winners were: Tyumen State University (2nd place) and Kazan Federal University (3rd place).

2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Olympics was conducted entirely online.

Held in December 2020 for student teams from universities in the Northern Eurasia League, it involved 8 student teams (85 participants) from 5 Russian cities.

The champion title went to the team from National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University (Tomsk, Russia).

Prize-winners included Tyumen State University (2nd place) and Saint Petersburg State University (3rd place).

2021

The Olympics gained international status in 2021 with the establishment of regional leagues: Northern Eurasia League, Middle East League, and Southeast Asia League.

The Northern Eurasia League united students from 14 Russian universities.

The Middle East League included participants from Iran, Iraq, Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, India, and Pakistan.

The Southeast Asia League featured universities from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The 2021 Northern Eurasia League was conducted in hybrid format at Kazan Federal University (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan), while all other newly formed leagues held their regional qualifying stages remotely.

In December 2021, the inaugural International Finals were held among winning teams from regional leagues, conducted entirely online. The first-ever N.N.Neprimirov Cup of the Olympics was awarded to the student team from Saint Petersburg Mining University (Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation).

2022

In 2022, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan joined the Northern Eurasia League, officially establishing its status as an International League.

The 2022 Northern Eurasia League received institutional support from the Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education, UNESCO, the State Commission on Mineral Reserves, and the Eurasian Union of Subsoil Experts (EUES).

That same year saw the creation of the Africa League, introducing continental competition for African student teams.

Due to regional specificities and requests from Middle Eastern petroleum universities, the Middle East League conducted its 2022 competition through two qualifying stages.

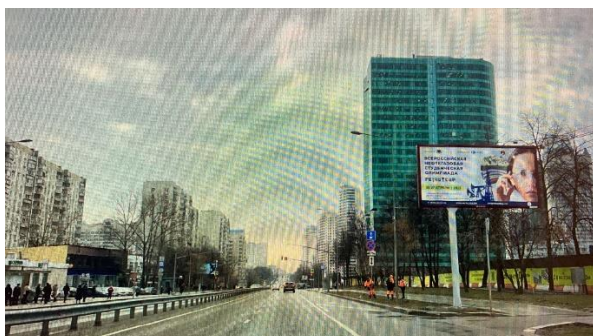
The International Finals featured 10 teams from 8 countries, with Kazan Volga Federal University (Russia) emerging as champion.

2023

The 2023 Northern Eurasia League marked its first hosting in Russia's capital, Moscow, with Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University of Russia serving as official venue and partner.

The Olympics witnessed the signing of educational cooperation agreements between Nafta College LLC and three leading institutions: Samara State Technical University, Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, and the Petroleum Faculty of Lomonosov Moscow State University.

The Moscow City Government provided official support, implementing a citywide outdoor advertising campaign to promote the Olympics across the capital.



Alongside the Northern Eurasia League, the 2023 season featured competitions in the Southeast Asia League, Africa League, and Middle East League.

The Southeast Asia League brought together student teams from petroleum universities in Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia, with 60 petroleum engineering students participating from 5 leading universities across these nations.

The Africa League saw participation from students of petroleum universities in Egypt and Nigeria, with 24 competitors from 2 major institutions.

The Middle East League united student teams from petroleum universities in UAE, Iran, India, and Oman, featuring 50 students from 4 premier institutions. The 2023 International Finals featured 5 student teams from universities in Russia, Iran, and Vietnam. Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University (Kazan, Russia) claimed first place.

The runner-up positions went to: Sergey Ordzhonikidze Russian State Geological Prospecting University (Moscow, Russia) in second place, and Samara State Technical University (Samara, Russia) in third. Sharif University of Technology (Iran) secured fourth place, while PetroVietnam University (Vietnam) finished fifth.

2024

The new season of qualifying rounds for the Olympics 2024 commenced in April 2024.

The Northern Eurasia League qualifier was held in Moscow at Sergey Ordzhonikidze Russian State Geological Prospecting University, which served as official partner and co-organizer.

The league featured 280 students representing 25 teams from universities across 19 cities in Russia, Belarus, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan. Eight teams competed on-site while seventeen participated remotely.

The Northern Eurasia League champion title went to the student team from Almeteyevsk state technological university "Petroleum high school" (Almeteyevsk, Republic of Tatarstan). During the event, Nafta College LLC and the Russian State Geological Prospecting University signed an educational cooperation agreement.

The Middle East League took place in September with 5 teams from UAE, Iran, and Oman, where Sultan Qaboos University (Oman) emerged victorious.

October saw the Africa League competition among 25 participants from Egypt, Sudan, Nigeria, and Uganda, with Ain Shams University (Egypt) claiming top honors.

The South Asia League concluded in late October with 4 teams (26 participants) from Vietnam, India, and Malaysia, where University of Technology Malaysia prevailed.

Winners and prize-winners from all leagues advanced to the December 2024 Finals, where 11 teams comprising 83 students from Russia, Oman, Iran, Nigeria, Egypt, Sudan, Malaysia, India, and Vietnam competed for the title of best subsurface resource manager.

The N.Neprimerov Cup was awarded to Almeteyevsk State Technological University "Higher School of Oil" (Russia). Second place went to Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia), while Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) (India) completed the podium in third place.

The Olympics has united 1,725 participants from 18 countries worldwide, competing in qualifying rounds across 4 International Leagues and the International Finals.

In addition to the official league, Nafta College maintains year-round engagement through monthly online Public PetroCup Tournaments. These open events allow students to showcase their field development skills, build hands-on experience in a realistic simulation environment, and sharpen their readiness for the main Olympics competitions.